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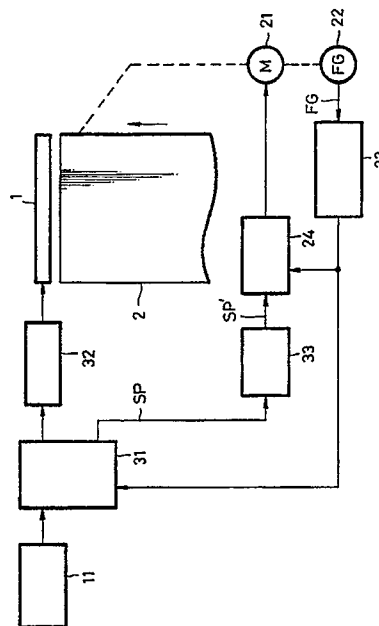
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(54) **Thermal printers.**

(57) A thermal printer comprises a thermal head (1) having a plurality of heating elements arranged in line in the horizontal direction, a printing data processing circuit (31) responsive to an input video signal for energizing the heating elements of the thermal head (1) in accordance with density information of each pixel, a driving device (21) for moving a print paper (2) relative to the thermal head (1) continuously in the vertical direction, a pitch setting circuit (31) for setting a vertical print pitch according to the number of effective horizontal print lines, effective width of the thermal head in the horizontal direction and aspect ratio of a printed image, and a speed control circuit (24) coupled to the driving device (21) for changing the moving speed of the print paper (2) according to the vertical print pitch, whereby the energizing time of the heating elements is fixed independent of the vertical print pitch, and the moving speed of the print paper (2) and an interval between the first printing data and second printing data are controlled in order to make the density of the printed image constant independent of the vertical print pitch.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 90 31 1121

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 13, no. 67 (M-798)(3415) 15 February 1989, & JP-A-63 268651 (HIROKO KOBAYASHI) 07 November 1988, * the whole document * - - -	1,2	B 41 J 2/36
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 12, no. 197 (M-706)(3044) 08 June 1988, & JP-A-63 004981 (TETSUO SAWA ET AL) 09 January 1988, * the whole document * - - -	1,2	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 10, no. 293 (E-443)(2349) 04 October 1986, & JP-A-61 109387 (MASATO MORI) 27 May 1986, * the whole document * - - - - -	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			B 41 J H 04 N
Place of search		Date of completion of search	Examiner
The Hague		01 July 91	ROBERTS N.
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